

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-6 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7-12 have been withdrawn. Claims 6 and 13-14 are cancelled. Claim 2 is currently amended. Claim 15 has been added as new. Basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

**CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

Claim 2 is objected to because “reduction” was erroneously underlined instead of struck-through. Applicants have amended Claim 2 by striking-through “reduction” and therefore have rendered this objection moot. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103**

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohashi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,580,373). Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohashi in view of Fujinami et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,259,359). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

**Claim 2**

Ohashi teaches recording and displaying captured images (Fig.4, col. 6, lines 47-65) but does not refer to “generating a synthesized image” at all. Fujinami only teaches capturing an image with a lower portion optically enlarged by a prism, so there is no need to “generate a synthesized image”.

Accordingly, even if Ohashi, in which captured images are recorded and displayed, and Fujinami, in which an image partially and optically enlarged by a prism is captured, are combined, it would not be obvious to "generate a synthesized image" in which an enlargement ratio is relatively higher in a nearby area of the vehicle than in a peripheral area of the vehicle according to the claimed invention.

Claim 4

Fig. 16 of Ohashi, which is indicated by the Examiner, only shows a grounding portion of one tire 3a. Specifically, Fig. 16 of Ohashi fails to include "grounding portions of both front and rear tires of left or right side of the vehicle" as claimed in claim 2. Thus, Ohashi fails to teach a synthesized image including grounding portions of both front and rear tires and in which an area along a side surface of the vehicle has linearity.

Fig. A shows an example image capturing a side of the vehicle by a camera disposed as shown in Figs. 8-11 of Ohashi.

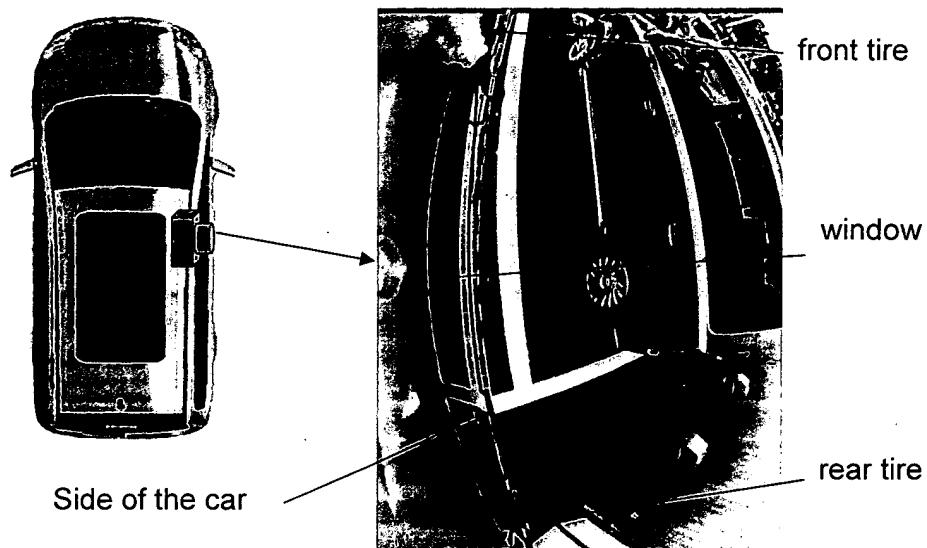


Fig. A

As is clear from Fig. A, an area along a side surface of the vehicle curves and has no linearity. When a wide-angle camera is used so as to shoot both front and rear tires, a straight line in the real world becomes a curved line in the captured image due to lens distortion.

Furthermore, even if the feature of Fujinami is applied to Fig. A, it is difficult to make the side surface of the vehicle straight in the captured image.

Accordingly, even if Ohashi and Fujinami are combined, it would not be obvious to generate a synthesized image including grounding portions of both front and rear tires and in which an area along a side surface of the vehicle has linearity.

#### New Claim 15

According to the present invention, in the image synthesis process, the camera image is projected onto a bowl model and by viewing the projected camera image from a virtual viewpoint, the synthesized image is generated. Using such an image synthesis, an enlargement ratio becomes relatively higher in a nearby area than in a peripheral area in the synthesized image.

In addition, when the virtual viewpoint is set above the camera to be downward, the side surface of the body becomes linear in the synthesized image. The user can easily grasp how close the vehicle is to the road edge by merely viewing such a synthesized image.

Ohashi and Fujinami fail to teach or suggest the features of Claim 15.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 5077-000092/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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